



Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM – 9:10 PM

Location: 730 Massachusetts Avenue, Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Minutes

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Aravind Basavapathruni, Bill Copithorne, Lenard Diggins, Charles Giroux, Michael Gordon, Melissa Laube, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muise, Tycho Nightingale, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith.

Members Missing: Ky Bertoli, Wayne Chouinard.

Members of the Public: None.

1. Public Comments.

None.

2. Administration.

Howard Muise introduced the new associate members in attendance: Aravind Basavapathruni and Tycho Nightingale.

TAC members approved the minutes of July 10.

Muise noted correspondence sent to the Town Manager regarding the appointment of Lenard Diggins as the TAC representative to the Sustainable Transportation Plan Advisory Committee.

Muise distributed the individual action list and active projects list.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on agenda).

Corey Rateau noted that sign work is getting done, including school zone signs near St. Agnes. He has been looking at crosswalks at the intersection of Broadway and Rawson to potentially move parking farther back from the crosswalks. Rateau also noted that he is preparing to do counts at a number of locations.

Bill Copithorne provided an update from DPW. Copithorne noted that the Mystic Street Bridge is set for permitting with final design, with construction tentatively beginning in Spring 2020. The Town submitted a grant for Complete Streets funding for the proposed traffic signal at Lake St. and the Bikeway but did not receive state funding. The project is proceeding with Town funding. Copithorne noted a number of road, curb, and walk projects that the Town is making progress on. Copithorne also mentioned that the pavement marking contract has been awarded, and scheduling is underway with the BRT lane painting a top priority. Copithorne also noted a number of potential traffic signal upgrades.

Daniel Amstutz said that the pavement marking contract has been signed for the bus lane, and that the Town just needs to schedule it. He also presented to the Select Board on a number of items from the Parking Committee, including moving the Route 87 layover out of the current location, adding 19 new metered spaces on Broadway, and Town work to improve the sidewalks in Broadway Plaza. Amstutz also provided an update on bike parking that has been replaced in two locations: near Town Hall and the library. The Town is also working on a bicycle parking guide.

Amstutz provided a few transit updates. The MBTA is looking for recommendations for bus routes as part of its Bus Network Redesign project. Amstutz suggested a potential connection to the Ball Square Green Line Extension station. Lenard Diggins suggested a combination of Routes 77 and 1 to provide direct access to downtown and Dudley Square. Diggins also suggested a route connecting Lexington to Kendall via Mass. Ave and Broadway, and a route connecting Alewife and the Wellington/Sullivan area. Scott Smith suggested extending Route 87 in the morning and afternoon to provide a connection between East Arlington and the Ottoson Middle School. Rateau suggested additional connections to Waltham. In addition, Amstutz is looking at priorities for bus shelters and other pedestrian amenities, and may submit an idea for transit signal priority at the intersection of the Route 2 exit ramps and Lake Street (and potentially other locations).

4. Discussion: Town Day Member Staffing.

Muise asked each team member when they would be available to participate at Town Day. Muise recorded the responses and will send a schedule around to TAC prior to Town Day.

5. Vote: Parking and Traffic Direction on Bartlett Avenue.

TAC will revisit this issue at the October meeting.

6. Vote: Traffic Calming on Kensington Park.

Muise commented that based on the previous meeting's discussion, both the volumes and the speeds are relatively low to warrant additional traffic calming. TAC unanimously voted to take no action.

7. Update: Chestnut Street at Chestnut Terrace.

Based on the discussion at the July TAC meeting, Rateau noted that he will write a regulatory note to install MUTCD signage to advise drivers that they must not block the intersection.

8. Update: Appleton Street at Park Ave.

Smith circulated crash data for the location. Rateau will do counts for a signal warrant, with counters on all four approaches. Muise will set up morning peak (7-9 am) and afternoon (2-6 pm) turning movement counts. Copithorne will look into adjusting the signal timing to add five seconds to the movements from Florence St., with the goal of using the longer signal timing to encourage some of the traffic currently using Appleton St. to instead use Florence St., where the signal is already in place.

9. Update: Crosswalk on Summer Street at Victoria Road/Buzzell Field.

Rateau confirmed that the work is complete, installing parking restrictions by the crosswalk at Summer Street and Victoria Road.

10. Update: Crosswalk on Grove Street.

Melissa Laube is going to set up counts for the morning and mid-afternoon on Grove St. Diggins volunteered to help with the morning counts.

11. Update: Crosswalk on Academy at Maple Street.

The committee noted that a count or gap analysis is still needed here to make a decision. Rateau will plan to do a count to determine how many pedestrians are crossing at Academy and Maple Street.

12. Update: Speed Zone on Herbert at Magnolia Park.

Amstutz confirmed that the speed zone has been installed on Herbert at Magnolia Park. Rateau will plan to recollect speeds in the next few weeks to provide data for a before/after study to assess the effectiveness of the speed zone.

There being no further business, Muise adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.